

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-18 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Claims 17-18 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101; and rejected claims 1-2, 7, 9-13, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujii et al. (USP 6,392,690) in view of Van Berkel (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0011884). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-6, 8, 14 and 15 include allowable subject matter.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings asserting Figs. 19-20 should be labeled as "Prior Art". By this amendment, Applicant has amended these figures to recite "Prior Art". Based on this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claim 16 asserting it is directed to non-statutory subject matter. By this amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 16. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Fujii et al. discloses the reduction calculation means and the three-dimensional processing means as recited in the claim. The Examiner admits that Fujii et al. fails to teach or suggest a switching means as recited in the claim. The Examiner relies on the teachings of Van Berkel to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of Fujii et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of these references.

Claim 1 recites an image processing apparatus, comprising reduction calculation means for reducing the number of a plurality of input image data, corresponding to a plurality of images that satisfy azimuth difference relations each other, in a lateral direction, respectively; three-dimensional processing means for combining the image data that have been reduced the number by the reduction calculation means so as to prepare a three-dimensional image data; and switching means for switching and selecting which one of three-dimensional image data prepared by the three-dimensional processing means and two-dimensional image data prepared by using one of the plurality of input image data should be outputted.

The Examiner relies on Figs. 14, 16 and 17 and col. 12, lines 36-44 to teach the reduction calculation means.

The disclosure of Fujii et al. is directed to a three-dimensional display device. At col. 12, lines 36-44, Fujii et al. discloses as follows:

Therefore, as to the binocular 3-D image display device which is taken as example in explaining the present embodiment, it is possible to easily form the color filters 25R, 25G, and 25B in the parallax barrier 21 even in the case where the size of the pixels in the LCD element 1 is reduced so as to increase the number n of the parallax images to achieve high resolution. As a result, high resolution of 3-D images can be easily achieved by reducing the pixel size, without lowering the yield of the 3-D image display device.

As can be seen from the above disclosure, Fujii et al. merely discloses that the size of the pixels is reduced to achieve high resolution. However, claim 1 requires reduction calculation means for reducing the number of a plurality of input image data, corresponding to a plurality of

images that satisfy azimuth difference relations each other, in a lateral direction, respectively. Fujii et al. fails to teach or suggest **reducing the number of a plurality of input image data, corresponding to a plurality of images that satisfy azimuth difference relations each other, in a lateral direction, respectively.** For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the references as cited by the Examiner.

Further, the Examiner relies on col. 12, line 66 through col. 13, line 9 of Fujii et al. to teach the three dimensional processing means.

However, the disclosure of Fujii et al. is directed to a three dimensional image display device that is arranged so that color filters are respectively provided in the apertures 23 which respectively allow plural images relative to each other as parallax images to pass therethrough and the color filters are shared at the pixels so as to keep the size of each color filter great even in the case where the size of the pixels is reduced so as to achieve high resolution without lowering the yield of the 3-D image display device.

At col. 12, line 66 through col. 13, line 9, Fujii et al. discloses as follows:

Incidentally, the parallax barrier 21 may be arranged as shown in FIGS. 1 and 6. More specifically, at least ends of the color filters 25R, 25G, and 25B on the substrate 22 are covered with light blocking members 24, so that apertures 23 serving as light transmitting sections are formed at a pitch p satisfying the above-described formula (1).

Generally, to perform desired 3-D image display, it is necessary that the apertures 23 are formed at the pitch p with high precision. Therefore, the light blocking members 24 are normally formed by the photolithography technique with high precision.

As can be seen from the above disclosure, the apertures 23 are formed on the parallax barrier 3-D display device so as to respectively allow plural images relative to each other as parallax images to pass therethrough.

However, claim 1 requires three-dimensional processing means for combining the image data that have been reduced the number by the reduction calculation means so as to prepare a three-dimensional image data. There is no teaching or suggestion in Fujii et al. that is directed to **combining the image data that have been reduced the number by the reduction calculation means so as to prepare a three-dimensional image data.** For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the references as cited by the Examiner.

Conclusion

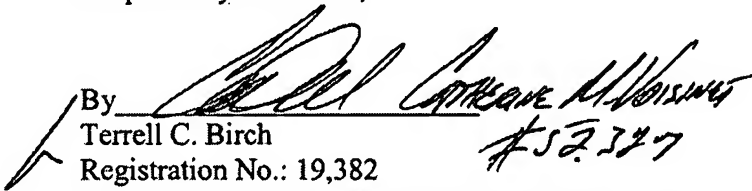
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 19 and 20 to include "PRIOR ART".

Attachment: Replacement Sheets